

PAM.
DO-CH.

Missions

1082

A Hole and Its

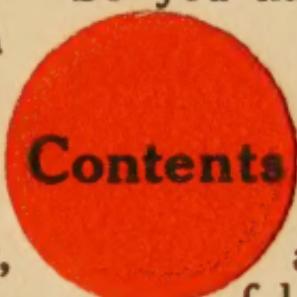




SAID a minister to a missionary recently: "To a lot of our people, giving to the cause of foreign missions is like pouring water into a rat hole—the hole never gets filled up." So you have heard!

Now a number of persons have been inside the missions foreign "hole," and the writer, as one of them, can confidently state that while it is capacious, it is not bottomless. Even a casual look will show that although not enough has been poured in thus far to make the hole overflow, yet what has been supposedly lost is there, and in addition a good deal that the complainants did not pour in.

In one corner of the "hole" lies Singapore, at the center of the Malaysia mission field. There are



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twenty-seven missionaries in that city, counting wives and missionary teachers in the schools. Of this number, two are supported by the Board of Foreign Missions, and five by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The other twenty are supported on the field. The An-nese School employs in its day and boarding departments eleven of the entire number, besides thirty-five local teachers. Not one cent of the funds of either Board goes to their support. But that is not all! Some of these missionary teachers, in addition to doing a full day's work in their class rooms, are in charge of native churches, or do some other form of voluntary work, which, if it were not for them, could only be main-

tained by pouring more funds into the "hole." Nor is that all! Two native young men – one an Indian, the other a Chinaman – who teach with high acceptability in this same school, serve as pastors, without remuneration.

Methodist Pub-

House

four white
and a staff

seventy Asia-

tics without
aid from home. Two of our eight
churches are self-supporting, and
the others partly so.

Pass on to Penang. The superintendant of the district is a man who preaches in English, Malay, Tamil, and Chinese. His Sunday work is as heavy as that of the average preacher in America, and in addition is principal of a school of nearly a thousand boys, not



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merely holding down an office chair, but teaching his classes as well. None of the money poured into the "hole" supports him. But the half has not been told. This same missionary's wife can work in English, Malay, Tamil, and dialects of Chinese. She supervises and accompanies her Biblewoman. She has founded, procured land and building for, and maintained for some years, a Rescue Home for Fallen Women, unaided by "hole" funds. Most of us like to have certain definite hours in each twenty-four, when we can count on entire relaxation from our work, devoting ourselves to personal affairs or recreation. But this good sister, with the appetite for activity of half a dozen

hearty men, and the devotion of an apostle, has gathered together in a building adjacent to her own house, a score or more of needy native girls, whom she clothes, feeds, and educates while teaching them homely arts. And, that indolence and even leisure may have to keep premises, she superintends in a big house next door, a boarding school for Chinese boys who pay their own way. All the money that finds its way from America into her manifold activities is a few dollars each for some of the girls she is supporting.

Now for a quick trip to Borneo. Seven churches and eight schools are supported, not by the inrush of funds through the capacious mouth



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of the "hole," but by a rice mill, donated by a good friend in America, and kept self-sustaining and ever-giving by its own energy in devouring hundreds of bags of rice raised by non-gambling, non-opium-using Chinese. Our organization of owners of this particular "hole" Java—not because the last word has been said, but because "a word to the wise is sufficient." In or near Java, some half dozen well-trained, efficient, devoted American men are teaching the English language and the love of God to the Chinese and other folk. At whose expense? Wholly at the expense of the evangelized, the not-yet-Christianized Chinese business man, to whose heart, if there has not yet penetrated

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the love of God, at least to his head has come the conviction that the American missionary is a safe man to whom to entrust both the mind and the morals of his sons.

We admit there is a big "hole." God has set before us an open door which no man can shut. We admit that a lot of consecrated time and money have been poured in. But in Malaysia probably not more than one-fourth of the inpouring has been done by the home church, and not a particle of the apparently lost giving has been wasted.

W. T. CHERRY,
Singapore.



Board of Foreign Missions of the
Methodist Episcopal Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York

25 cents per hundred

The returns from Malaysia
for 1912 indicate that
the "hole" has the following



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Foreign Missionaries	- - - - -	57
Native Preachers and Helpers	- - -	127
Members and Probationers	- - -	3482
Educational Institutions	- - - - -	51
Number of Pupils	- - - - -	6616
Churches and Chapels	- - - - -	28
Value of all Property	- -	\$514,851
Am't contributed on Field	-	\$13,425

